

Wilford Woodruff House
Nauvoo, Illinois

Hancock Co

HABS 26-26

HABS
Ill,
34-NAU,
3

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No.26

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr., District Officer
Room 404, No. 520 No. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Illinois

WILFORD WOODRUFF HOUSE
HANCOCK COUNTY
NAUVOO, ILLINOIS

DISTRICT NO. 26
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-26

By. W.J.O'Connor

SOURCE

Biography This brick dwelling was built in 1842
by by Wilford Woodruff, one of the twelve
Joseph apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of
Fielding Latter Day Saints (Mormon). He was born at
Smith. Farmington (Hartford County) Conn. in 1807
 and died in San Francisco, Cal. in 1898.

Church After his banishment from Nauvoo no
Historian records are available as to who purchased or
Latter Day lived in the house (if anybody did) till it
Saints. came into the hands of the present owner,
 Mrs. Mina Resse Rheinbezer in 1889. She
 purchased the house thru trustee, acting for
 some party unknown or forgotten. According
 to Mrs. Rheinbezer this property was vacant
 for years before the time of her acquisition.

 The small rear porch appears to be of
 later date than the house itself, but existed
 at the time of Mrs. Rheinbezer's purchase.

 All interior partitions are of brick,
 plastered. New hardwood floors were installed
 on first floor by present owner in 1925.
 Original walnut floors are still intact and
 in good condition on the second floor. All
 interior trim is of pine, while structural
 members are of oak. Foundation walls are of
 native stone 14" thick.

 It appears evident that originally there
 existed a partition between the two parlors
 on the 1st floor, but just when alteration was
 made is unknown.

 All exterior walls are of native sand mold
 brick of a pink or salmon color. The east, or
 front elevation has a harder burned or face
 brick facing of approximately the same color
 but a slightly smoother surface. All mortar
 joints are in excellent condition, hard as
 flint and are pure white in color.

Wilford Woodruff with John Taylor served as co-editor of the "Times and Seasons", official church newspaper published at Nauvoo, 1840-1845 and following the Mormon war and assassination of Joseph Smith, the prophet and founder of the Mormon religion, left Nauvoo in 1846 with the hand cart brigade of exiled saints on their perilous journey westward across the plains, being a member of the pioneer company which arrived in Salt Lake Valley, Utah, July 24, 1847.

Wilford Woodruff acted as church historian three years previous to being sustained fourth president of the Mormon Church (April 7, 1889).

On September 24, 1890, President Woodruff issued the "Manifesto" at Salt Lake City, an edict abolishing polygamy as contrary to state and national law, although President Woodruff was himself a polygamist, having five wives and thirty one children.

No information whatever was discoverable as to just who the architect or builder of the house might have been.

By William J. O'Connor
Approved Earl H. Neely
District Officer

March 10, 1934